

REMARKS

As presently amended the claimed embodiments require the waste water that are treated in accordance with the inventive process to be acidic and the pH of the resulting water is required to be greater than 7.5.

Claims 10-12, 14 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,952,088 to Brown et al (Brown) in view of JP 51-166987 (the '987 document).

Brown disclosed treating with ozone the aqueous effluent from the dehydrochlorination of dichlorobutene and then with chlorine to attain acidic pH.

The '987 document disclosed treatment with air at pH lower than 4.5 and then adding an alkaline agent in order to increase the pH to 6 - 8 for treatment with ozone. Nothing in the document refers to pH less than 7 before treatment with ozone and higher than 7.5 after that treatment.

The rejection over Brown in view of the '987 document is believed addressed and overcome by the present amendment.

Claims 13, 15-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of the '987 and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,103,092 to Silva (Silva).

Brown and the '987 document were discussed above and the shortcoming in the present context noted. Silva has been cited to show that a sodium chloride containing solution that has been purified by the removal of organic contaminants can be used to form chlorine by electrolysis.

Nothing in Silva is seen to in anyway augment the combination of Brown with the '987 document to result in describing the invention as presently claimed.

The rejection over Brown in view of the '987 document and Silva is believed addressed and overcome by the present amendment.

Believing the above represent a complete response to the Office Action and that the application is in condition for allowance, applicants request the earliest issuance of an indication to this effect.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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